

VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY

JANUARY 2026

Livermore, California

MISSION: To encourage and equip each other as we share a common interest and enjoyment of Bonsai and to encourage others to explore this art form.

[HTTP://WWW.VALLEYBONSAISOCIETY.COM](http://www.valleybonsaisociety.com)

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WHAT IS THE VALLEY BONSAI SOCIETY?



50 weeks.

Founded in February 2008 by Charles Harder, this organization was established to create a group of local Bonsai enthusiasts with all level of expertise. Many of us started by taking one or more of Charles' classes, some received a plant as a gift and some had been struggling on their own. We currently have some people with extensive collections; some have trained trees as long as 50 years and some are still trying to get a tree to survive

MEETINGS

The club meets at Alden Lane every third Saturday of the month at 2:00PM. Everyone is welcome!

NEWSLETTER, EMAIL LIST AND WEBSITE

We maintain an e-mail distribution list of our members to release announcements and send out the monthly newsletter. Please send a request to be added to (or removed from) this list via e-mail to Charles Harder (bonsainut@comcast.net).

We have a website! Visit us at www.valleybonsaisociety.com. Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyBonsai> or Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/Valley_Bonsai_Society

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone who shares an interest in the ancient oriental horticultural art of Bonsai. The annual dues are \$30 a year for an individual or \$40 for couples or families. If you would rather not pay for a membership, you have the option of paying \$5.00 per visit. If you have questions regarding membership or would like to join, please contact Bea Bauerly BelgianBea@yahoo.com

JANUARY MEETING BY CHARLES

The January meeting was all about soil. We had all three major components (akadama, perlite and granite) available for sale as well as some pre-mixed. We discussed each components and their use/purpose. The remainder of the meeting was spent working and/or getting advice on trees.



FEBRUARY MEETING BY CHARLES

The subject of our February meeting will be wiring. We will discuss the need for good wiring, tips, tricks and techniques we use for clean/neat wiring. A well-executed wiring will help make bending easier and look tidy on the branches. Now is also a good time for repotting, so if you need help or guidance, bring in your tree(s) to work on. Please let me know if you need soil.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BGLM 2026 Mammoth Live Auction

Mar 07, 2026, 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610
Please refer to our website at <https://bonsailakemerritt.com/mammoth-auction-sale-fundraiser/> for more information

The Mammoth Fundraiser is the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt's largest fundraiser of the year! The Live Auction will be held on Saturday, March 7 and Vendor and Consignments Sales are on Sunday, March 8.

American Bonsai Association Sacramento Bonsai Show and Sale

Apr 11, 2026, 7:00 PM – Apr 12, 2026, 11:00 PM

Sacramento Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816

Please join us for a weekend celebrating beautiful bonsai and suiseki! Enjoy beginner workshops -sign up soon, they fill quickly, member and vendor sales and daily demonstrations by our headliner, Jennifer Price. Jennifer will present demonstrations each day from 1:30–3:30 PM, followed by a raffle.

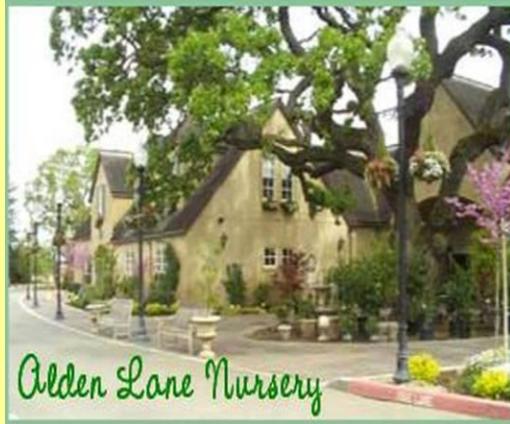
SENPAI CORNER BY CHARLES

Happy New Year! We are in the middle of winter, but I am eagerly awaiting that first sign of bud swelling for most of my trees. I am spending this quiet time with needle plucking my black pines, repotting some trees that were in desperate need of a new home or fresh soil, sharpening my tools, and planning out how I will be structuring some others in the weeks and months to come. I know we just started the year, but now is the time to look at and evaluate which trees you might want to consider for our show in June. Finding (and cleaning if needed) that perfect pot. Making sure the wiring is clean and tidy – or watching and removing the wire before it bites into the branch or trunk, cleaning the soil surface and generally making sure that it is in its best condition to exhibit. I do encourage everyone to show at least one tree. But for now, I would watch the weather for those cold nights, keep the emerging weeds down, and enjoy the anticipation of the busy time soon to come.

ELECTIONS

Positions on the Board are still available. Please contact Bea if you are interested.

THANK YOU ALDEN LANE



981 Alden Lane
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 447-0280
www.aldenlane.com

Thanks to Alden Lane for sponsoring our meetings at the nursery. The nursery has evergreen, blooming trained Bonsai specimens in many sizes for indoors, and outdoor gardens. Stop in and let one of the Bonsai experts help you design your own Bonsai masterpiece from the selection of Bonsai pots and starter plants. They also carry Bonsai tools and enough useful Bonsai accessories to satisfy even the most dedicated bonsai tree hobbyist.

The nice thing about meeting at Alden Lane is that you have the opportunity to not only pick up bonsai stock and supplies but to shop under the oaks amongst one of the most extensive offerings for your home and garden. Inspiration and beauty abounds wherever you look along with the friendly, knowledgeable staff of Alden Lane. Do not forget to say THANK YOU for the incredible support!

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

President	Charles Harder	bonsainut@comcast.net
Vice President	Open Position	
Social Media	Gerardo Gutierrez	gguti18@yahoo.com
Secretary	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Membership	Bea Bauerly	BelgianBea@yahoo.com
Fundraising	Open Position	
Newsletter	Charles Harder	bonsainut@comcast.net
Website	Bill Bauerly	Bill46@pacbell.net

If you need to contact any of the above, please make sure to reference "Valley Bonsai Society" in the subject line.